



1 W. Wyomissing Ave., Mohnton, PA 19540

Sept. 22nd, 2024 – Sept. 28th, 2024

www.calvaryumcmohnton.org

*Connect with God.
Connect with each other.
Connect with the community.*

What to Do When You Don't Know What to Do When You're Struggling with Where God Is Leading You

9/15/24 Sermon by Pastor Nova; Scripture: Jonah 1:1-3

Have you ever been in a situation where you knew God was calling you to something, but you hesitated or ran away? There are moments when we know God is calling us to something, but we struggle with where that call is leading us. Jonah's story is a clear example of that struggle. Like Jonah, we often know the answer to our questions, but we hesitate because we're afraid of the unknown, the cost, or where that answer will take us. Let's take a closer look at what we can learn from Jonah's reluctance to follow God's leading.

3rd Week: Jonah 1:1-3 (800 BCE)

3 Key Actions to Take:

- Stop Running from God's Call & Face It
- Acknowledge your Fear
- Surrender to God's Plan

Jonah was a prophet of Israel, (8th Century BCE) called by God to go to the city of Nineveh (Mosul-near Tigris River), the capital of the **Assyrian Empire**, (northern Iraq- as parts of **Syria, Turkey, and Iran.**) known for its wickedness and violence. God wanted Jonah to deliver a message of repentance to the people of Nineveh, warning them of impending judgment if they did not turn from their evil ways. However, Jonah resisted God's command, likely due to fear and prejudice, as the Assyrians were enemies of Israel. Instead of obeying, Jonah fled in the opposite direction, setting off a series of events that ultimately revealed God's mercy, both for Jonah and the people of Nineveh. Jonah struggled with fear, reluctance, and even defiance. We all have moments when God asks us to do something difficult, and we resist.

Acknowledge Your Fear, But Don't Let It Control You

Jonah's initial response to God's call was rooted in fear and reluctance, which led him to run away. It's important to recognize when fear is influencing our decisions, but we must not allow it to keep us from following God's call. Take time to reflect on what specifically scares us about God's leading— where God leads us can be uncomfortable, difficult, or even frightening whether it's fear of failure, fear of change, or fear of the unknown—**then bring that fear to God in prayer.**

Action Step: Name your fears and pray for courage to confront them with faith, trusting that God will provide for you just as He provided for Jonah.

Stop Running from God's Call and Face It

Running away, as Jonah did, may feel like the easier choice, but it often leads to greater turmoil and distance from God. We often try to avoid uncomfortable situations that God places before us but running from God is like running on a treadmill—you're working hard but going nowhere. Instead of avoiding God's calling or delaying our response, take a step toward obedience, even if it's uncomfortable. The storm Jonah faced reminds us that running from God doesn't bring peace, but facing His call brings clarity and purpose.

~Sermon cont'd on pg. 3



September 22nd, 2024

9:15Am ~ Sunday school

10:30AM ~ Traditional Service

Sermon Series:

What to Do

When You Don't Know What to Do
It's Okay to Not Be Okay

Noemi De Armas, an ordained Deaconess of the Greater NJ Conference and the sister of Pastor Nova, will preach on the next topic in this sermon series.

**SUNDAY LIVESTREAM
CTRL + CLICK HERE**

Stewardship Update a/k/a P.R.I.S.M. (People Representing Inspired Spiritual Movement)

In an effort to keep our congregation informed about finances within Calvary church we would like to provide this update.

Parsonage Project: The parsonage attic insulation installation has been completed.

Church Budget:

As of August 31st, we are currently 11% behind in the giving needed (YTD) to meet our budget requirements. As often happens, we experienced a downturn financially during the summer months, so, our current situation is still a bit concerning. We are initiating a voluntary stewardship experiment to help solve the problem.

SUNNY DAY FUND UPDATE

Hopefully by now, everyone knows about the P.R.I.S.M. team's Sunny Day Fund. If not, here's a quick review. From now until Dec 1, (or longer if you prefer) keep track of the money you spend just to treat yourself i.e. going out to eat, going to the movies, vacationing, etc. Set aside 10% as thanksgiving for your good fortune and bring that amount to church on Dec 1, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. We are hoping for a high degree of congregational participation to help us meet our 2024 budget needs, so we don't have to dip into our rainy-day savings.

The 10% may not seem like a lot, but Joann and I have been keeping track since September 1 and our current SDF balance is \$152! The P.R.I.S.M. team hopes you accept our invitation to not only celebrate life but also the One who makes it possible.

~Bob Werner
P.R.I.S.M. Chairman



Safe Berks 23rd Annual Silent Witness March & Dedication



Monday, October 14, 2024

11 a.m. – Gather at Safe Berks, 255 Chestnut St., Reading

**11:15 a.m. – Silent March to The Miller Center for the Arts-
Reading Area Community College (RACC)**

Noon: Dedication Ceremony at RACC, followed by lunch

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

Each year, Safe Berks holds the Silent Witness March & Dedication, a visual monument, to honor all those lost to domestic violence homicide. Each red silhouette, symbolizing Berks County women, men, children, and pets, displays a shield describing their untimely death. The silent march begins at Safe Berks, located at 255 Chestnut Street, Reading, and ends with a dedication program and luncheon at Reading Area Community College. This solemn yet most powerful event remembers and honors victims of domestic violence homicide and offers support to their families, friends, and community members.

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There are several ways our congregation can support this SAFE BERKS event, and they are all completely free! The walk and luncheon are open to the public. You may choose to participate in the entire event or, depending on your time and abilities, attend either the walk or the dedication/lunch portion.

No reservations are required, but it is helpful to their planning if we give them an idea of how many people will be attending the luncheon. I am hoping to be able to attend both portions of the event and encourage each and every one of you to prayerfully consider joining a Calvary team to show our community support.

No matter what you decide, everyone can offer their prayers for the success of this event and for an end to the tragedy of domestic violence homicide. For further information, questions and to express an interest in participating, please contact Diane Anderson @ 484-269-7599 or e-mail dkanderson52@live.com

CURRENT NEEDS FOR SAFE BERKS

Pillows, twin size sheet sets, size 5 and 6 diapers, and misc. gift cards for grocery stores, gas, Walmart or Amazon.

Items may be placed on the back counter at the end of the main hallway, designated with a sign for SAFE BERKS. I will be checking for donations and delivering on a regular basis. Your contributions are greatly needed and appreciated. Thank you!

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Sermon *cont'd* from pg. 1

Action Step: Identify one area where you have been resisting God's leading and take a practical step toward obedience this week—whether that's having a difficult conversation, serving in a new ministry, or addressing an internal struggle.

Surrender to God's Plan and Trust His Grace

Jonah eventually surrendered to God's plan, and it brought about transformation for the entire city of Nineveh. When we finally say yes to God's call, we open the door for His grace to work not only in your life but also in the lives of others. Trust that God's plan, even when challenging, leads to a greater purpose.

Action Step: Commit to surrendering our plans to God's leading. Reflect on how saying "Yes!" to His call could bring transformation in your life and in those around you.

Friends, what "yes" is God waiting for from you today?

Remember that His mercy remains, and His glory fills the earth. Just like Jonah, God calls us to serve His purposes every day, trust that He is leading you to a greater plan and reward than you could ever imagine. So, pray for the strength to fully trust His will to guide you always!



Don

Chaplain Kenneth E. Dearstyne, Sr.

Had they lived, I would have had three older brothers, but that was not the case. So, when my sister began dating Don, he became the older brother I never knew.

At six feet six inches tall, his light blonde hair and other features identified his German heritage. Early on, we more or less adopted each other. In similar situations, most young men would not want a younger brother around on a date. Not so with Don. I was invited to bring along my current girlfriend on double dates. When we returned, he would let me take his car to drive my date home. We became more than just friends. We bonded as brothers.

When Don and Alberta began planning their wedding, Don asked me to be his Best Man. The wedding was to be on April 25, 1943. Unfortunately, World War II intervened.

After high school graduation in 1942, my life plans were on hold. I attended the New York State Institute of Agriculture in Cobleskill until my eighteenth birthday and then, without informing my parents, I enlisted in the Army. I took the physical in Albany on April 13th and, on April 20th, I left for

Camp Upton, Long Island. A young Lutheran pastor, Dayton Van Deusen, took over the role of Best Man. Dayton would later become an Army chaplain and be awarded the Silver Star for heroic service in Europe.

Life went on. Don and Alberta became parents of their first son, Allan. I served for three years in the states and Southwest Pacific, returning home in January 1946.

Shortly after my discharge, Don's life took a tragic turn. The photo of a demolished 1938 Plymouth sedan in one of my photo albums tells the story. Don had been delivering milk to a customer in Center Brunswick. Allan, not yet three years, was a front seat passenger. As Don was getting back into the car, a speeding driver lost control and crashed broadside into the Plymouth. Don was pinned in the wreckage. Miraculously, Allan survived with only minor injuries.

Don's left hip was shattered. He would never be able to return to work on the farm. He was an only child. Frank, his father, would have to abandon farming and sell his herd of cattle and his farm equipment. I was not yet regularly employed, so I helped with milking and other chores until Frank was able to take care of the details. It was a very sad time.

Don's recovery was slow, painful and very expensive, but he never gave up. He and Alberta were determined to remain independent. Welfare was never an option. For several years, Don worked at a plumbing supply store until it was sold. Later, he served as a school bus driver for twenty years until retirement. Not yet ready for a rocking chair, he served for twenty more years as a bus driver for senior citizens, finally retiring in his mid-eighties. Meantime, Alberta supplemented family income with a business of her own, caring for as many as sixteen children of working parents in a day care program in her home. I should add that she did all this while raising a family of six children and caring for Don's parents and her own until they left the world.

Don and his five sons were never idle. When not in school, the boys worked on neighboring farms. During the summer, they would load the station wagon with equipment and spend the evenings mowing lawns for extra income.

As the children finished their education and began families of their own, Don and Alberta decided to give each one a share of the farmland on which to build a home. Years later, grandchildren now are building homes on some of the same acreage. I pity the postman who must deliver

mail to an area populated by many families who share the same name.

On July 6, 2011, I made a sad journey to my home country in upstate New York. The pastor of Gilead Lutheran Church in Center Brunswick invited me to take part in Don's funeral service. I arrived in time for the viewing on the previous evening. I sat with my sister, Alberta, as more than a hundred friends stopped to tell their stories about Don. Many had been youngsters on his school bus. Others had been children in Alberta's day care program. Now parents themselves, they wanted Alberta to know how much she and Don had meant to them in their early years.

That tragic accident early in life could have destroyed this man. But it did not. He and his wife struggled to remain independent, make a living, raise a large family and contribute so much to so many young lives and to their community. Don was ninety-two years of age. The conclusion of his obituary was a fitting tribute. "Don Kreiger: husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, friend, leader, Christian."



The Mohnton Community Thanksgiving Eve worship service will be hosted by Calvary UMC on MONDAY, November 25th, at 7PM.



Mifflin Community Clothing Giveaway

@ Zion EC Church

Corner of East Summit Street & N. Church Street, Mohnton, PA

Donation Drop Off

Tues., Sept. 24th from 9AM to 1PM
Weds., Sept. 25th from 9AM to 1PM
Thurs., Sept. 26th from 9AM to 7PM
(**NO** DROP OFF after Thursday)

PLEASE, ONLY CLEAN, GENTLY USED CLOTHING WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Clothing Giveaway

Fri., Sept. 27th from 9AM to 7PM
Sat., Sept. 28th from 8AM to 12PM

NO TVs, APPLIANCES, FURNITURE, COMPUTERS, COPIERS, HOUSEHOLD GOODS, TOYS, BOOKS, CDs or DVDs WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Zion E.C. Church is not responsible for lost or stolen items



7:00 PM in the Music Room
Senior Choir Rehearsals:
OCTOBER 23rd
NOVEMBER 6th & 20th

All who would like to sing praise to God to enhance our worship experiences are welcome to be a choir member!
Questions? Call Jim Adams at 484-332-1332 or Julie McGettrick at 603-540-3215.



- 22 – Rob Wagner, Jr.
122 Hemlock Rd.
Reading, PA 19607
- 24 – Ray Renninger
1 Pebble Brook Ln.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 24 – Bruce Morton
335 Scenic Dr.
Reading, PA 19607
- 24 – Mark Martin
20 E. Fairview St.
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 25 – Jodi Lombardo
202 Roxberry Dr.
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
- 26 – Alice Schonour
35 Sage Dr.
Sinking Spring, PA 19608
- 27 – Ainsley Matz
13 Katie Lane
Mohnton, PA 19540
- 28 – Michelle Dautrich
261 Preston Rd.
Wernersville, PA 19565



MEETING TIME: 4PM – 5PM

September Schedule – Pizza will be provided

Sunday September 22, 2024- Youth Group (grades 6th -12th)

Sunday September 29, 2024- Kids Club (1 – 5th grade)

Children Club and Youth Group schedule starting October 1

1st and 3rd Sundays will be children.

2nd and 4th Sundays will be Youth Group

(Schedule is subject to change.)

SUNDAY SCHOOL for all ages

9:15AM-10:15AM

Adult class—Meeting in the Chapel & via ZOOM

Children & Youth—Meeting in the Social Hall

5 yr. olds — 5th Grade ~ 6th – 12th Grade & up

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Lower Level/Social Hall

Big Faith is a well-rounded curriculum “where fun meets adventure, imagination, and trusted theology for a special connection to heart and home”. *Big Faith* will guide your children in discovering, developing, and practicing faith within a supportive community. Each session includes storytelling, videos, hands-on activities, and reflections to cultivate faith as an integral part of everyday life.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to teach or assist (flexible scheduling) please contact Justin Thomas at 517-331-2665 or jthomas.sitka@yahoo.com or christianed,calvmohn@gmail.com



"Let's Talk About It" Bible Study/Life Group

Join us every Thursday at 9:30AM, starting October 3rd, for an engaging and open discussion led by Pastor Nova. Whether you're new to the Bible or have years of experience, this group offers a welcoming space to explore Scripture and share life experiences with honesty and without fear of judgment. Together, we'll grow in faith and understanding. We'll meet in the chapel, so come as you are, ready for meaningful, open-hearted conversations and spiritual growth.

Prayer Warrior's Night

Join us on the 1st Thursday of every month at 7pm, starting October 3rd, for an evening of powerful, faith-filled prayer. Led by Pastor Nova, this gathering is a time to come together as a community to lift up our needs, stand against spiritual battles, and seek God's guidance and strength. Whether you're seasoned in prayer or just beginning, all are welcome to unite in intercession and experience the power of prayer together. We meet in the chapel—come ready to pray boldly!

The adult Sunday school class gathers for bible study in the Chapel (& via Zoom). The *NIV Standard Bible Commentary* will be used to facilitate discussion around biblical stories/verses that focus on worshipping in a covenant community. The key areas that will be presented in next several months will be:

- Biblical Leaders Set a Worship Example (Hezekiah, Josiah, Moses & Miriam)
- Songs of the Old Testament
- Psalms of Thanksgiving & Praise

Dave Svetz will guide the weekly discussions. We are, of course, praying that Michelle Daniels will soon regain her health and also be a study leader.

If you are unable to attend in person, you may join the group using the Worship Zoom link, which is available on Calvary's website homepage under the Worship tab. Or click in the following: [Adult Sunday school](#).

ADULT
Sunday School





Janet Dearstyne will be out of the office on the following workdays:
Sept. 27th & 30th, and Oct. 7th & 8th.

Our Annual Charge Conference will be held at Lincoln Park UMC on Saturday, November 2nd, from 9 – 10:30AM. Coffee and light refreshments will be served. The presiding Elder will be Rev. Jacqueline Tilford. All members of the church may attend.

The GSM Mission Team will leave for India on Dec. 26th, 2024 and return on Jan. 7th, 2025. The following are members of the team: Doug Pearson, Sean Steffey, Darlene Vernon, Pastor Nova, Justin and Nicole Thomas, Mark Martin, and Vicky Kefer.



JIM ADAMS
SOCORRO ANGULO
SHIRLEY AYRTON
BOBBY BAKER
DAVID BAKER
ANDREW BEERER
SUSAN BERKLEY
FAM of HENRY BHASKER
LEANNE BIERLY
JOE BLACKBURN, JR
RICK BRUETSCH
LINDA CHANDLER
TREVOR COMEAU
DAVE CURLEY
LAINA D'GIROLAMO
BROOKLYN DANIELS
LYNN DANIELS
MICHELLE DANIELS
RAY DAUTRICH
AMANDA D
DAVID
KAREN DAVIS
DELVALLE FAMILY
CANDY DODSON
MATT EDGERTON
BONNIE EHST

GINNY EPPS
ANDREW ERB
BOB ERB
PATRICIA FINAN
AMELIA FORTUNATO
BYRON FRITZ
RUNETTE GABRIEL
STEVE & BARBARA GANCER
ROSELEE HAAKE
STACEY HANLEY
PEGGY HARSHAW
RICH & JAN HARTMAN
TOM HASSLER
JACK HIGGINS
DAVID HOFFMAN
TAD & CORI HORNE
DANNY HUTZELL
KELLY HUTZELL
NICK KARETAS
JOHN KLINE
REV DON & ELVA KNOT
ED LEISER, SR.
DEB MCGAHEN
JULIE MCGETTRICK
BRENDA MEYERS
JENNIFER MILLER

CHARLES & LINDA
MORGANT
DANIELLA MUNTEAN
RYAN MYHER
RON PATON
CHARLES PLUSHINISKI
LAWRENCE RIDER
JOHN & DORISMARIE ROWE
BILL RUTH
PAULLINE SCHMEHL
BOB & WANDA STEFFEY
MIRIAM STEFFEY
CHARLIE SULZBERGER
TRACEY SUNDAY
JOANNE TALARICO
KELSEY TAVERAS
MARY THOMAS
LOLA TROUTMAN
SAM VARANO
VINITH
KAREN WADE
KAY WADSWORTH
SUSIE WAHL
NELLY & JAE WALLACE
BOB WERNER
SUE WERNER



**THE MOHNTON BOROUGH
Great Pumpkin Parade
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19TH**

AT 7:00PM

**Sponsored by the Mohnton
Cumru Lions Club**

**Group and Float judging will
take place in front of
Calvary Church.**

**The parade will start in
Northridge.**

**If you/group would like to
participate in the parade, you
may register online at:
www.mohntoncumrulions.com**

WHAT IS YOUR OASIS? by Janna Firestone [from churchart.com]

As the gospels make clear, even the Son of God needed an occasional break. For Jesus, a solitary place reached by boat served as an oasis.

Although an oasis might make us think of a beach-like vacation spot in the middle of a desert, it's simply "something that provides refuge, relief or pleasant contrast" (Merriam-Webster).

So, what's your oasis? For someone who recently lost a spouse, it could be a break from the newfound silence. For a young parent, it could be a block of solitude and silence to complete a thought.

I haven't found any definition of oasis that includes a timeframe. Such an experience could last 30 seconds or a full week. Work within your circumstances so you can get away for a time with Jesus.